

– California State Parks (CSP) –
Overview of current & planned future efforts to serve the equestrian community in
*Cuyamaca Rancho State Park &
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®*

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

- A new trail machine, purchased with the help of the Cuyamaca Cooperative association, is providing valuable assistance to crews working on Park trails.
- Work to restore the Cuyamaca trail system: approximately 98% of the Park's trails are now re-opened since the fire/floods.
- Re-alignment of the CA Riding and Hiking Trail to create a more "all-weather route" out of both the wet meadow, and the endangered plant habitat.
- The all-access trail planned for the Cold Stream area (which may have precluded equestrian use in the past), has been moved to the Stonewall Mine area. The all-access trail planned for this new location includes a fine interpretive loop route, leaving the Cold Stream Trail completely open to equestrians in the future.
- Search for a new equestrian campground and day-use area is currently underway. The goal being, to restore use of a family camp having a similar experience as that of Los Caballos, hopefully even larger, with a larger day-use area as well.
- Establishment of an equestrian advisory group (five individuals representing equestrian groups) to help State Parks locate and plan a new horse camp.
- Acquisition of the 76-acre Mack Property at the south end of Cuyamaca. This site shows potential for providing an equestrian and hiking trail opportunity.

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (which shares portions of Cuyamaca's eastern boundary)

- A new trailhead parking and day-use area has been constructed on a recently acquired parcel of the Lucky 5 property, located alongside the northern end of the Sunrise Highway. The site provides parking for six equestrian rigs along with passenger car parking spots for hikers and mountain bikers.
- Four new trails have been approved for the Lucky 5 property, intersecting at the new trailhead parking lot. One trail to be constructed will connect with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), 1/2 mile east of Sunrise Highway (Co. Road S-1) providing opportunity for a nice loop route out of the parking area. Another trail is an old ranch road which parallels Sunrise Highway heading south to the Lucky 5 gate, then crosses the highway to the east, connecting to the PCT. The third new trail, also an old ranch road, heads north several miles - parallel to the Sunrise Highway, and connects to the CA Riding & Hiking Trail. The fourth route to be opened sometime soon will be a scenic overlook route which tops out on a peak, will provide a commanding view of the Cuyamaca Mountains, including Cuyamaca Peak, Middle Peak, and North Peak.
- Additional to the above mentioned trails, is a fifth trail connection. It allows riders to access the upper Green Valley area from the old ranch road trail as it passes the entrance to La Cima Camp, off Sunrise Highway.
- At the new parking area on Sunrise Highway, CSP has constructed a new vault toilet facility, and added a solar powered well pump where an old windmill is used to pump water into a stock trough. With a 5,000-gallon storage tank in place, CSP is using the old 500-gallon watering

trough to provide a water supply to horses. Water will be available to day users using the parking lot, as well as to equestrians traveling through on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

- CSP recently purchased the Tulluch Ranch, 2,000 acres north of Cuyamaca Lake, and spanning both sides of Highway 79 and Co. Rd. S-1. There is an excellent opportunity to construct a small equestrian camp on the ranch. We have done a preliminary look for natural and cultural resources, and so far, the site looks like a real possibility. One of the best vistas in San Diego County can be had by hikers, four wheel drive enthusiasts, mountain bikers, and equestrians from the crest of the Peninsular Mountain Range on the Tulluch Ranch. On a clear day one can see into Arizona, Mexico, and to the north: Mount San Jacinto and San Geronio Peak. We'd also like to consider a small primitive camp to provide opportunities to car campers, hikers, and mountain bikers to have a base camp on the Tulluch Ranch for forays down into Oriflamme and Rodriguez Canyons, and along with equestrians, have excellent access from the Tulluch to the PCT and the CA Riding & Hiking Trails which run through the ranch. If we can open the road through the new acquisition, and can work out a safe access off Sunrise or Highway 79, there will be the opportunity to drive by four wheel drive from the mountains all the way down to the desert floor at Mason Valley, near Vallecito.
- The Park recently purchased the old Rancho Vallecito, a 3,400-acre cattle ranch along the historic Southern Emigrant Trail. Superb opportunities for hikers, campers, mountain bikers, and equestrians exist on this ranchland. One idea we have so far, is to work on providing a horse camp on the old farm field near the main ranch house at Vallecito. The system of old ranch roads and the presence of about six miles of the old historic emigrant trail through this new property will no doubt provide excellent hiking and riding opportunities.
- The Vern Whitaker Horse Camp has a brand new well----the old well failed last season and our Sacramento HQ's provided \$60,000 to drill and outfit a new well. We are working now on plans for a new restroom/shower building at the Camp, one which will be ADA accessible. Statewide ADA funds will pay the entire cost of this facility. We need reasonable bids and a contractor to get this started.
- On Veteran's Day Weekend, 50 volunteers of the Back Country Horsemen planned to return to the Whitaker Horse Camp for their annual trail project. Each November, the BCH brings in scores of volunteers to re-open and maintain the Lower Willows Trail for equestrians and hikers, giving access to the much-visited Coyote Canyon. This group exemplifies the excellent cooperative spirit between the equestrian community and CSP. This is the 11th year of this annual event.

Scissors Crossing Parking Area for the PCT

- The Park recently acquired the Sentenac Canyon property and has provided the chance to park horse trailers and rigs off the highway in this former borrow pit, 1.4 miles north of State Highway 78 on the east side of County Road S-2. A 1/2 mile connector trail has been constructed from this parking lot to the PCT, thereby alleviating the need for equestrians to off-load and tack up on the highway shoulder. It is now possible to drive in, tack up, and ride, to the PCT without ever having to put horses next to the highway.